Reply to the letter by C. Chauveau et al. on our publication "A comparative analysis of phenotype expression in human osteoblasts from heterotopic ossification and normal bone"

Handschin, Alexander E

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alexander E. Handschin

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A. E. Handschin (✉)
Department of Surgery,
Research Division
University Hospital of Zurich,
Raemistrasse 100,
Zurich 8091, Switzerland
e-mail: Alexander.handschin@usz.ch
Tel.: +41-1-2552213
Fax: +41-1-2554741

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the comments and remarks concerning our study "A comparative analysis of phenotype expression in human osteoblasts from heterotopic ossification and normal bone" [1]. We are aware that the group from Chauveau et al. [2] has not investigated the expression of the phenotype markers in an in vitro assay. To emphasize this, we have clearly stated in the discussion that the "diverging results (of the studies) may be caused by...different methods and also by the origin of heterotopic ossification." The phrase relating to "cell culture types" refers to the work of Sell et al. [3] who did use an in vitro experiment.

We agree that the type I collagen expression was actually upregulated in the Chauveau paper, a result which was not observed in the study from Sell et al. nor in our experiment.

Nevertheless, our conclusion is confirmed by other studies, including the work of Chaveau et al.: The genesis of HO seems to involve a disturbed equilibrium between osteoblast and osteoclast activity with a pathological shift towards osteoblast-controlled bone formation.

References

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2. Chauveau et al (2004) Exp Mol Pathol 76(1):37–43
3. Sell et al (1998) Calcif Tissue Int 62:51–59